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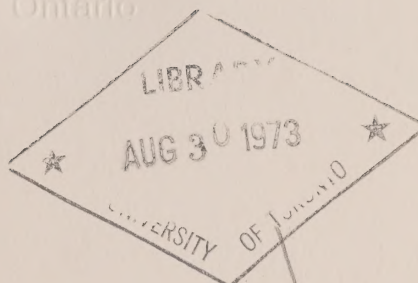
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The Royal Visit

Tuesday, June 26, 1973



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On behalf of the people of Ontario, the Government officially welcomed and honoured Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on Tuesday, June 26th, 1973.

At the first ceremony in the morning, Members of the Provincial Parliament were joined by thousands of our citizens on the sunlit green lawns of Queen's Park. There, as Premier, it was my high privilege to deliver the Loyal Address and, as well, present our Sovereign with a special gift from the Province.

That evening our Royal Visitors were guests of honour at the Ontario Government's Provincial State Dinner at the Royal York Hotel. A broad cross-section of citizens from all parts of the Province, representing all walks of life, were guests of the Ontario Government at the banquet.

This booklet contains the speeches made on those two occasions. It is intended as a souvenir of a Royal visit that brought smiles to the faces of our citizens, colour to our lives and greatness to our Province.

William Harris

Premier of Ontario.



The Premier's Loyal Address to Her Most Gracious Majesty Elizabeth the Second

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

On this most happy occasion, the visit of Your Majesty to our Province, it is my honour and privilege on behalf of the Parliament and people of Ontario to express to you our deep and abiding loyalty.

Our pleasure is enhanced by the presence of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who has visited the City of Toronto on four occasions since your last visit together in 1959.

During your brief but welcome stay among us Your Majesty is bound to perceive the extraordinary growth and physical changes that have occurred in Ontario since last you honoured us with your presence. That all of this has taken place in a mere fourteen years is a testament to the industry of our citizens and a measure of the accelerated pace at which society is evolving, not only in Ontario, but in Canada, in the Commonwealth and the World.

Your Majesty may also sense a change in the attitudes of our citizens toward physical growth as a desirable goal in itself. As Canada's wealthiest and most industrialized Province, we are thankful for our affluence but we are also increasingly mindful of our environment and the need to protect and preserve it for this generation and generations to come. Even as we strive to achieve a balance between ensuring the economic and social well-being of our citizens and according proper respect to Nature, we are thankful, too, that our state of development is such that our attention is



occupied by concerns associated with peace and stability rather than with upheaval or ancient animosities.

The Province of Ontario has strong and historical ties with the United Kingdom, and continues to enjoy and preserve those ties. The majority of our earliest pioneers came from the United Kingdom and Ontario was a major place of settlement for the United Empire Loyalists who fled the American Revolution, a circumstance firmly and irrevocably woven into the fabric of our history.

Those of us who were born and raised in Ontario and those of us who have come here from other jurisdictions and other countries are equally aware of our indebtedness to the British heritage this Province has enjoyed since its inception.

We are the beneficiaries of the parliamentary system of government. Our legal system is the inheritor of the principles established by the British common law, and our Ontario Human Rights Code is a contemporary projection of the light of liberty first generated at Runnymede with the signing of Magna Carta seven centuries ago.

Whereas most of our new settlers once came from the British Isles, in recent years there has been a steady and growing influx to Ontario of people of neither British nor French origin and who now comprise the majority of newcomers. Your Majesty can be assured that in so choosing, they selected not so much a country on the map as a heritage and history of freedom and human dignity that evolved in the British Isles and which is symbolized by the Crown.

To peoples of all origins in Ontario, Your Majesty by personal example casts a civilizing influence upon all of our deliberations in meeting the challenges of an increasingly complex world. While Your Majesty's position commands respect in itself, it is Your Majesty's gracious and humane occupation of that position which



evokes devotion and loyalty on a very immediate and personal level.

It is our hope that, in the years to come, the memories of this visit will remain filled with pleasant recollections, and we pray that Almighty God in His Divine Providence will long spare Your Majesty to reign over us and will Bless Your Majesty and every member of the Royal Family with health, happiness and peace.

I remain, Your Majesty's faithful subject and devoted servant.

WILLIAM G. DAVIS

Premier of Ontario

Presentation of Playground

YOUR MAJESTY:

I have the great honour to present to you, on behalf of the Government and the people of Ontario, a new fully equipped playground for the Hospital for Sick Children. The Land for the new play area is described as Part of Lots No. 30 and No. 31 on the north side of Elm Street in our Capital City of Toronto.

On behalf of this Government and the people we represent, I ask you most humbly to accept

The Queen Elizabeth Playground

as a gift from your loyal and loving subjects in Ontario and as a permanent memento of your visit with us in June, 1973.



The Queen's reply to the Loyal Address

MR. PREMIER:

I am deeply grateful for your welcome and for your assurances of the loyalty and good wishes of the people of Ontario.

Time seems to slip past very quickly and although I have been in the Northwest Territories, in Manitoba, and in British Columbia, fairly recently, I find it is fourteen years since I was last in Toronto.

That is a long gap but I have been kept well informed about the growth, the prosperity and the development that has come about in those years. I have already noticed many changes and I am looking forward to seeing for myself what has been achieved here in the lives of men and women, both in the material as well as in the social way.

Chaque fois que je visite le Canada, je suis frappée de nouveau par la diversité des origines, et des cultures que vous ont léguées les peuples qui ont fondé ce pays, mais par delà les différences de religion, de couleur ou de traditions, il y a un puissant lien qui vous unit les uns aux autres: Le règne du droit. Grâce à lui, chacun d'entre vous est libre . . . d'être pleinement lui-même.

Under the protection of the law and the system of parliamentary democracy, people from all over the world have been able to choose their various ways of being Canadian, respecting others but not forsaking their own inheritance. The shelter of confederation has given all the parts of the Canadian community the chance to grow into a mature and independent nation.



Mr. Premier, the people living in this province and in Canada today have better opportunities for full and rewarding lives than ever before. They owe much to their own efforts, but they also inherited a great deal from the pioneers who came before them. And we must never forget that those pioneers themselves learned how to survive in the new world from those who had flourished among the lakes and forests from time immemorial. The peoples of Ontario have received a rich endowment of wisdom and nature. May they cherish it for the generations to come.



Introduction by the Premier at the Provincial State Dinner

YOUR MAJESTY:

Many of us present here tonight remember the visit of your mother and father in 1939. We most certainly remember the great example set by the Royal Family during the difficult days of the Second World War, and Your Majesty, you may not realize this, but some of us remember your own broadcasts, as the then Princess Elizabeth, to the young people in the United Kingdom who were so pressed during those difficult times.

Later, we in Canada rejoiced at the wedding of Your Majesty and Your Royal Highness as we did at Your Majesty's Coronation, which represented to us not only the continuity of succession, but also a longing in the hearts of all of us that the British Monarchy should prevail in what was then a most uncertain world.

What I am attempting to say to you tonight, Your Majesty, very simply is this – that the people of Ontario, many of whom have had the opportunity of meeting you in the past two days, have always had the feeling of knowing you and identifying with your aims and aspirations for the Commonwealth.

You have been part of our lives and part of our history, and in a manner that commands respect born out of genuine affection. I am sure, Your Majesty and Your Royal Highness, that this has become evident to you in the brief time that you have been with us and will be increasingly so in the days that lie ahead.

I would like just very simply on behalf of not only the gathering here tonight, but of all the people of this Province, to welcome you, Your Majesty, as our Queen.



The Queen's remarks at the Provincial State Dinner

I have very vivid and happy memories of the welcome I received in Ontario during my previous visits to the province. Tonight, Mr. Premier, your kind words have once again displayed the same generous hospitality which I have come to know so well. We are both deeply grateful.

No one coming to Toronto after an interval of fourteen years can possibly fail to notice the changes, the growth and the general improvement of standards. This material development is only to be expected in this age of technological progress. The only danger is to mistake material growth for social improvement. Structures may be bigger and more impressive, means of transport may be more sophisticated and there may be a wider choice of consumer products, but at the centre of it all are men and women and children. They are still the same size, they still function in much the same way and their ordinary human needs are not much different.

It is no good asking the question, "Are people happier as a result of all this development?" because happiness is comparative and in any case satisfaction in the life of individual people is made up of so many different factors. It is difficult enough to define these factors for a homogeneous community but it becomes a real puzzle to provide for all the interests and aspirations of communities with such diverse backgrounds as life in Ontario and in Canada as a whole.

On entend souvent dire que le Canada n'a pas été un creuset et que les Canadiens résistent à la fusion. Bien que dans tous les pays, les minorités redécouvrent leurs souches et que cela engendre parfois des conflits, le Canada se distingue par son respect de la

culture de chacun. Il élève l'identité culturelle au-dessus des débats politiques et en fait un droit. La seule exigence qu'il pose est que tous aient la possibilité de maîtriser l'une des langues officielles ou les deux.

The real measure of success of any community, whether it lives in a modern, urban, industrial world or in primitive conditions, is the sense of freedom, the ability to participate in self-government and the social and cultural development which make all its members feel that life is worth living.

Mr. Premier, I have been moved and touched by the special warmth of our reception by Canadians who cherish links between Great Britain and this country. It is a particular satisfaction to me that the Crown can be a powerful link between all the nations of the Commonwealth.

But it is as Queen of Canada that I am here. Queen of Canada and of all Canadians, not just of one or two ancestral strains. I want the Crown to be seen as a symbol of national sovereignty belonging to all. It is not only a link between Commonwealth nations, but between Canadian citizens of every national origin and ancestry.

The Crown is an idea more than a person and I want the Crown in Canada to represent everything that is best and most admired in the Canadian ideal. I will continue to do my best to make it so during my lifetime, and I hope you will all continue to give me your help in this task.

